Schemes to contain Child Labour

247. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the competent authority has initiated any scheme to contain the Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the grants allotted and utilized during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the number of child labourers recorded during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) whether any project is initiated/proposed, in accordance with the decision by the International Labour Organisation to observe first World Day against Child Labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCPLs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations.

(b) The major activity under the NCLP is the running of special schools/ centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the scheme of NCLP, funds are being released directly to the Project Societies, which are headed by the District Collector/Magistrate. An amount of Rs. 3796.78 lakhs, Rs. 3798.24 lakhs and Rs. 6193.56 lakhs has been released for implementation of child labour programmes during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively.

(c) Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1991 census, the number of working

children in India is 11.28 million. The figures of the 2001 census have not been published.

(d) No proposal to this effect has been received from the ILO.

National Wage Policy for Beedi Labourers

248. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would make a National Wage Policy for Beedi Labourers so that they may get equal wages all over the country;

(b) whether Government would take necessary steps to ensure that the Beedi magnates do not shift their Beedi manufacturing units to the States having lower wages for beedi making thereby rendering lakhs of beedi labourers without employment and on the verge of starvation in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) how much allocation was made available in 2001-2002 to construct residential accommodation for beedi labourers in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) A subsidy amounting to Rs. 1.73 crore was sanctioned during the year for construction of 905 houses for the beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh in the year 2001-2002.

Statement

National Wage Policy for Beedi Workers

The Government has examined the issue of a National Wage Policy which has been discussed on many occasions in different fora. Since fixation of wages